

Tools of the Trade

Joshua 1:8

Joshua 1:8-9

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

(1) He neglects not to read it (v8a)

**(2) He meditate upon it all the time
that he may receive wisdom (v8b)**

**(3) He fully carried out the wisdom he
learned and experience God's
Guidance and Blessings (v8c)**

A literal translation of the verse will show the emphasis given in bold, “You shall **not** remove this **book of instruction** from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** in it day and night so that you shall **observe to do** according to all being written in it, for then you shall **prosper in your way**, and so you shall have **success.**”

You may be surprised, is it so
simple, just read it?

This is the first step.

The best and most faithful translation
of the original Hebrew and Greek
Scriptures is the King James Bible.

(2) He meditate upon it all the time
that he may receive wisdom (v8b)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

In meditating aright, the mind of man exercises two kinds of acts –

(1) An act directed upon the things meditated

(2) The other reflexive upon himself, the person meditating.

“The Christian’s Daily Walk” by Henry Scudder

The first is an act of the contemplative part of the **understanding**, the second is an **act of conscience**.

The end of the first is to enlighten the **mind** with **knowledge**: the end of the second is to fill the **heart** with **goodness**.

“The Christian’s Daily Walk” by Henry Scudder

The first serves, in terms of moral actions, **to find out the rule** whereby you may know more clearly:

What is truth, what is falsehood, what is good, what is bad; whom you should obey, and what manner of person you should be, and what you should do and like.

The second serves to direct you how to make a **right and profitable application to yourself, and to your actions**, of the rule.

“The Christian’s Daily Walk” by Henry Scudder

First, **an examination**, whether you and your actions be according to the rule, or whether you come short, or are swerved from it, giving judgment of you, according as it finds you.

The second is **a persuasive and commanding act**, charging the soul in every faculty, understanding, will, affections, yes, the whole man, to **reform** and **conform** themselves to the rule, that is, to the will of God, if you find yourself not to think and act according to it: which is done by **confessing** the fault to God with remorse, **praying for forgiveness**, returning to God by faith and repentance, and reforming the heart and life through a new obedience. This must be the resolution of the soul.

And all this a man must charge himself peremptorily, commanding himself with sincere desire and fixed endeavour to conform to it.

Rules for meditation

God's holy nature, attributes, word, works, also what is duty, and what is sin, what you should be and do; what you are, and what you have done, what are the miseries of the wicked, and what are the happiness and privileges of the righteous, are fit subjects of meditation.

That which must settle your judgment, and be the rule to direct you what to hold for true and good, must be the canon of God's word rightly understood, as Paul said, 2 Timothy 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

Caution

In seeking to know the secrets and mysteries of God and godliness, you must not pry into them further than God hath revealed; for if you pry further, you will presently lose yourself, and be swallowed up in a maze and whirlpool of heresies and errors.

These deep things of God must be understood with sobriety, according to the clear light which God has given you by His Word.

(3) He fully carried out the wisdom he learned and experience God's Guidance and Blessings (v8c)

...that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

There are several elements that we would like to consider to help us in the new year of grace 2018.

- (1) Time – Quiet Time (Your Devotional Time)
- (2) Trust – Building Faith and Trust in God
- (3) Temperance – Attitude, Acknowledge our Need
- (4) Truth/Thought – Godly Thoughts to Fill the Heart with God's Truths
- (5) Thanksgiving – Praise God for His Presence
- (6) Trial/Temptation – Strength to Overcome
- (7) Tenacity – Strength to Persevere